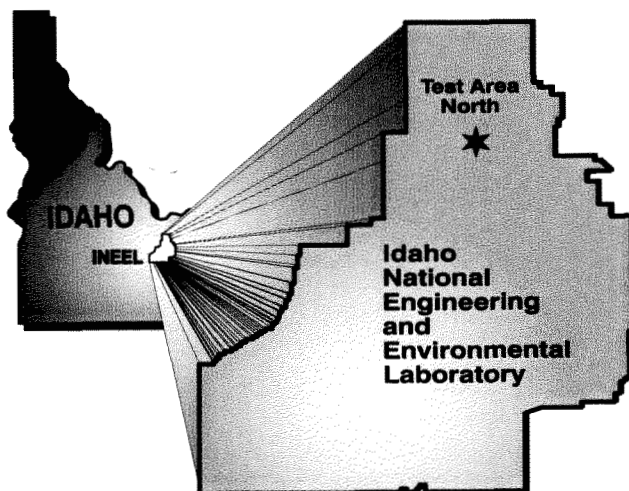


NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Agencies announce public comment period for Test Area North cleanup site



The U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have released a revised proposed plan for cleanup of a set of underground storage tanks at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and are asking the public for comments on cleanup alternatives.

The public comment period runs from April 15 through May 14. The agencies have revised the previous proposed plan because it called for waste to be shipped offsite for treatment at a facility that is no longer available. The

agencies are now looking at three technologies for treatment of this waste.

The agencies are seeking public input on the cleanup alternatives for four tanks at Test Area North, called V-tanks. The tanks, the associated piping and some contaminated surrounding soil are being cleaned up under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, otherwise known as CERCLA or Superfund.

All of the V-tanks are stainless steel, and the total volume of waste in all four tanks is approximately 12,000 gallons. Soil contamination around the tanks came from spills as waste was transferred from

the tanks. The tanks were installed in the 1950s as part of a system to collect and treat liquid radioactive waste from Test Area North facilities. The tanks now contain waste contaminated with radionuclides, heavy metals, and organic compounds including polychlorinated biphenyls.

Detailed information is available in the Administrative Record file for Operable Unit 1-10. The Administrative Record is located at the DOE Reading Room of the INEEL Technical Library in Idaho Falls. Copies can be found at Albertsons Library on the Boise State University. The Administrative Record can be accessed on the Internet at <http://ar.inel.gov/home.html>. More information on Test Area North and the V-Tanks can be found in a fact sheet available online at: <http://www.inel.gov/publicdocuments/factsheet/02-50568-02.pdf>.

For more information on the proposed plan or to receive a copy of the proposed plan, contact the Community Relations Office at 208-526-3183 or by email at campjl@inel.gov.

